

Message Text

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11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 111430Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5876
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1584

EXDIS

PASS LABOR FOR SECRETARY USERY AND DEPUTY UNDER-
SECRETARY SEGALL; COMMERCE FOR UNDERSECRETARY

DEPT FOR IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO PORG
SUBJ: MEETING WITH ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD

1. ON MAR 6 MET WITH BLANCHARD, WOLF, HIS LEGAL
ADVISER, FORTIN, CHEF DE CABINET, ACCOMPANIED BY
AMBASSADOR DALE, HOROWITZ, USG MEMBER OF GOVERNING
BODY, AND LABATT GENEVA. TOOK VERY LOW KEY APPROACH
WITH BLANCHARD, EXPLAINING PURSUANT TO CONSTITUTION
NOT APPROPRIATE FOR ANY GOVT TO ATTEMPT TO
INFLUENCE DG, THAT FURTHERMORE HIS CAPACITY TO
SATISFY BASIC US CONCERNS LIMITED. HOWEVER, DID INDICATE
THAT BLANCHARD'S AND HIS OFFICE'S DRAFTING OF
DOCUMENTS SUCH AS THOSE FOR EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE
AND ADVICE TO THE CHAIR, AND ON OTHER MISCELLANEOUS
MATTERS COULD BE OF IMPORTANCE.

2.I TRIED TO HIGHLIGHT SERIOUSNESS OF U.S. PURPOSE
BY DISCUSSING U.S. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION DURING
PERIOD OF TIME OF NOTICE. TOLD BLANCHARD THAT WE
WERE COMMITTED TO SATISFY OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLI-
GATIONS AND THAT BECAUSE OF APPROPRIATION DIFFICULTY
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WE COULD CONCEIVABLY EVEN PAY DUES FOR EXTRA MONTH

OF DECEMBER 1977.

3. BLANCHARD EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR RECOGNITION OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS POSITION AND THAT OF PRIME MINISTERS, FOREIGN MINISTERS AND LABOR MINISTERS OF VARIOUS NATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WAS COMPLETELY NON-PLUSSED BY MY RELUCTANCE TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF VARIOUS ISSUES AND AGAIN AND AGAIN ASKED FOR ELABORATION OF OUR LETTER. AT ONE POINT HE CONTENDED THAT AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AGREED WITH HIM THAT OUR LETTER WAS INSUFFICIENTLY DETAILED. I RESISTED GETTING INTO A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTIONS I HAD EXPLORED WITH VARIOUS GOVTS AND ALLUDED TO THEM ONLY GENERALLY.

4. SOMEWHAT OFF BALANCE, BLANCHARD AT ONE POINT SAID HE COULD NOT BELIEVE THE U.S. WOULD LEAVE THE ILO, AND AT ANOTHER, THAT HE WAS AFRAID WE HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO LEAVE THE ILO. I INDICATED THAT I WAS NOT UNDULY OPTIMISTIC SINCE UNLESS MEMBER NATIONS AND PARTICULARLY THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES AGREED TO A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE ATMOSPHERE ON THE ISSUES SET FORTH IN THE SECRETARY'S LETTER, OUR COURSE OF ACTION WAS DETERMINED. BLANCHARD EXPRESSED CONCERN WHETHER 23 DEMOCRACIES COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND EMPHASIZED HIS DESIRE TO BE NEUTRAL. I RESPONDED THAT WE REGARD NEUTRALITY AS REQUIRING FEALTY TO THE BASIC PURPOSES AND STRUCTURE OF THE ILO.

5. IN RESPONSE TO THE POINTS IN LETTER, BLANCHARD ARGUED THAT OUR POSITION ON DOUBLE STANDARD WAS MIS-CONCEIVED BECAUSE OF THE PROFESSIONALISM OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS, TO WHICH I RESPONDED THAT OUR CONCERN WAS MORE FOR THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTION AND THE CONFERENCE PLENARY. BLANCHARD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GEORGE MEANY HAD RAISED THE SAME POINT WITH HIM. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE AGREED WITH OUR BASIC POSITIONS, CLAIMING THAT HE HAD CONSISTENTLY URGED ILO MEMBERS TO COMPLY WITH DUE PROCESS POINTING OUT THAT ONLY LAST WEEK HE HAD SUGGESTED

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THIS TO THE SOVIET UNION.HE EXPRESSED COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR U.S. PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE 17 OF THE STANDING ORDERS.

6. AFTER HE MENTIONED GEORGE MEANY SEVERAL TIMES, I EMPHASIZED THE BREADTH OF CONSENSUS ON U.S. ILO POLICY. BLANCHARD ACKNOWLEDGED IT BUT CONTENDED HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH NUANCES OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, LABOR AND COMMERCE. I
DISCOUNTED THAT.

7. AT LUNCH I ASKED BLANCHARD WHAT THE SOVIET POSITION
WAS ON THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS AND ON U.S.
POLICY GENERALLY. BLANCHARD DESCRIBED THEM AS
VERY QUIET, INDEED. I ASKED WHY THAT WAS SO AND HIS
ASSOCIATES SUGGESTED TWO POSSIBILITIES: (1) FORTIN,
THAT THE SOVIETS DID NOT WANT TO BE BLAMED FOR
PRECIPITATING U.S. WITHDRAWAL AND (2) WOLF THAT WITHOUT
THE U.S. AS A BACKBOARD, SOVIET PROPAGANDA EFFORTS
IN THE ILO WERE LESS EFFECTIVE AND MEANINGFUL. FOR
OBVIOUS REASONS BLANCHARD EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE
WITH THE LATTER SUGGESTION.

8. AFTER LUNCH, AT HOROWITZ' SUGGESTION, I PULLED
BLANCHARD ASIDE AND PRIVATELY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION
FOR HIS ACTIONS DURING THE MID-EAST DEBATE AND FOR
HIS RECENT DESCRIPTION OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND
TRI-PARTITISM AS TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE ILO (HE CLAIMED
HE WAS CRITICIZED BY THE SOVIETS FOR THAT). I ALSO
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE POSITION OF FRANCE, HIS COUNTRY,
WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE.

9. COMMENT: THERE WAS NO PURPOSE IN COMING ON STRONG
WITH BLANCHARD. THE SITUATION PRESENTS INHERENT
PRESSURE. I THOUGHT IT MORE USEFUL TO REFLECT A
SORROWFUL, DOWN-BEAT ATTITUDE TO ADD TO OUR CREDIBILITY.
FURTHERMORE, I DID NOT DISCUSS IN DETAIL OUR 76-77 AGENDA
BECAUSE I DID NOT WANT TO IMPLICITLY SANCTION BLANCHARD
AS A MEDIATOR BETWEEN U.S. AND OTHER ILO MEMBERS.
HE IS, OF COURSE, INFORMED OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH
OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY FRANCE, AND WILL SURELY
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POSE AS A SOPHISTICATED EXPERT ON THE U.S. POSITIONS
BUT THE MORE OFF BALANCE THE MORE HE IS WORRIED
AND THAT ITSELF WILL HAVE A SALUTORY IMPACT ON
HIS ACTIONS, THE ACTIONS OF HIS OFFICE AND MOST
IMPORTANTLY, ON THE EUROPEANS WITH WHOM HE IS IN
CONSTANT CONTACT. SILBERMAN

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